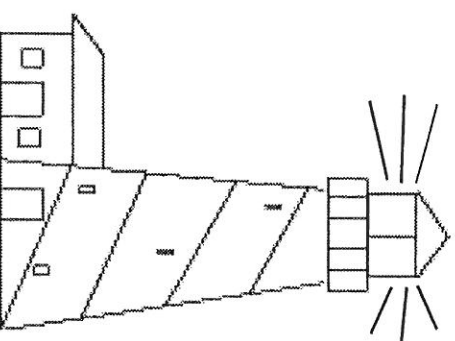


Roger Williams University

Law Library

Illuminations



Issue No. 6

Fall, 2000



Welcome



Over the summer there have been some major changes in the library and there are more to come.

The biggest change is that Donna Miller who had been with the library since 1993 has left to take a position with a court library in her Massachusetts hometown. Thelma Dzialo joined the library staff on August 14th, filling the Circulation / Interlibrary Loan Assistant position. She will be hiring and training our student library assistants for the Circulation Desk and handling interlibrary loan requests among other duties. She previously held circulation and interlibrary loan positions at the University library. Please stop by to greet her and help us welcome her.

Important computer hardware changes include the installation of new computers in the two training labs and the upgrading of the computers at the hexagons, including the WebCatalog terminals. The new computers, in addition to being more powerful, have zip drives for saving larger files and wonderful new monitors. The computers at the hexagons now all have Pentium processors. Of interest to your budgets, a WESTLAW printer was installed in the Main Computer Lab providing free WESTLAW printing. This printer joins the LEXIS printers in the Main Computer Lab and Training Lab 1 in providing students with free printing.

Law Office Information Systems (L.O.I.S.) is now providing access to our law students. Watch your email for sign-up information and the access code. L.O.I.S. is a web-based full-text database providing access to comprehensive legal resources for all 50 states and for 18 selected federal libraries. While training will be offered in October, the search interface is very straight-forward and easy to use. If you would like to attend a training session, sign-up sheets will be at the Reference Desk towards the end of September. A reminder about training will be emailed to all students.

New online services of interest include *HeinOnline* and the *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly Archives*. *HeinOnline* provides searchable access to

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a constantly growing collection of law review and other legal periodicals with the ability to see and print articles as they exist in print. The *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly Archives* provides faculty and students searchable access to their archives for all articles and case digests since 1993.

☞ Links to both of these services are available on the Library's "Legal Web Sites" page under "Consortium & Subscription Sites" [<http://law.rwu.edu/LawLib/LegalWS.htm>]. Instructions for using the Library's proxy service to access these sites are provided from a link at the beginning of the "Consortium & Subscription Sites" section of the page. Simply click on **instructions**.

☞ From the computers in the library, a shortcut entitled "Web Databases" provides quick access to links for all of the web-based resources available through library subscriptions.



Coming Attractions

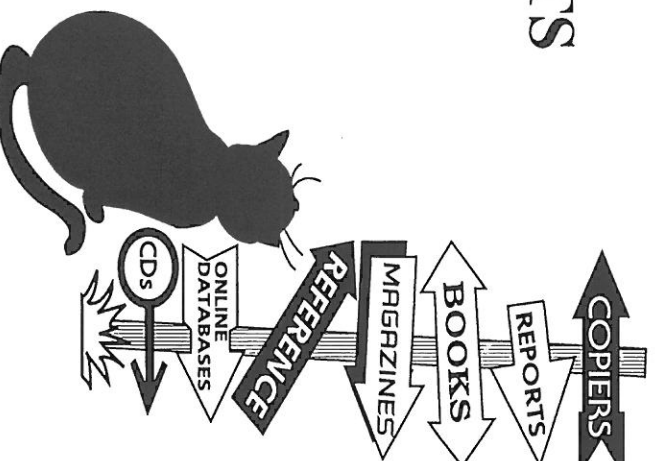


By the middle of the Fall semester, access to the Internet will be available at the carrels in the library. You may see personnel from the Information Technology Department installing wiring and making needed connections. Please bear with any disturbance created by the installation process. As soon as the wiring and all of the supporting equipment are in place, you will be notified by email. The notification will include instructions on how to access the Internet from the carrels.

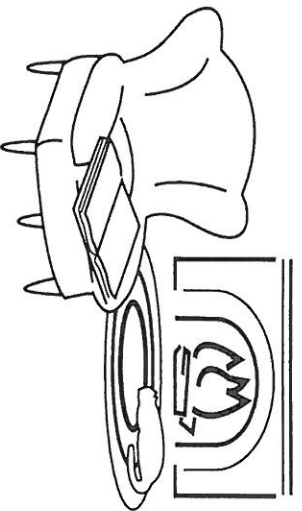
FIRST YEAR STUDENTS LIBRARY TOURS

Library tours for first-year students will be conducted September 5th through September 9th. You will receive a memo in your mailbox informing you of our scheduled date and time.

If there is a scheduling conflict or you did not receive a memo, please contact Nan Balliot in the Law Library at 4542 or email ngk@rwulaw.rwu.edu.



Check It Out



Book Reviews

Wise, Steven M., *Rattling the Cage: Toward Legal Rights for Animals*. Cambridge, Mass.: Perseus Books, 2000. HV4708 .W57 2000. Foreword by Jane Goodall.

According to Jane Goodall, *Rattling the Cage: Toward Legal Rights for Animals* could be considered the animals' Magna Carta, Declaration of Independence, and Universal Declaration of Rights all in one. Noted animal-rights lawyer Steven Wise makes his case for extending legal rights to chimpanzees and bonobos in this fascinating book. He questions why a chimpanzee who can communicate with language, count, understand the minds of others, feel complex emotions, live in a complex society, and makes and uses tools has no rights at all while a human in a permanent vegetative state still has some legal rights.

The author first gives a historical overview of various laws pertaining to animals, covering the past 4,000 years of the human experience with animals. He next examines the legal principles of equality and liberty and how they should be granted to certain animal species. He then describes the work of primatologists with chimpanzees and bonobos, concluding that the cognitive, emotional, and social capacities of these apes should entitle them to freedom from imprisonment and abuse.

Mr. Wise has practiced animal protection law for twenty years and teaches "Animal Rights Law" at Harvard, Vermont, and John Marshall law schools. He is founder and president of the Center for the Expansion of Fundamental Rights. Founded in 1995, this non-profit organization's primary mission is to obtain fundamental legal rights for nonhuman animals. For more information about the CEFR, visit its web site at <http://www.cefr.org>.

*Reviewed by Nan Kelley Balliot,
Reader Services Librarian.*



Pertin, Michael L., *The Hidden Prejudice: Mental Disability on Trial*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 2000. KF 480 .P474 2000.

The author is a full-time professor and has taught numerous mental disability law courses over a span of fifteen years. Invariably, at the very beginning of the first mental health law class of every semester, students immediately pepper him with questions such as:

"Professor, I heard this story on TV the other day—about some guy who was driving his neighbors crazy, and whose family wanted to send him to the hospital, but the police were saying their 'hands were tied' because he 'hadn't hurt anyone yet'—is that really true?"

"Professor, can we talk about how everyone seems to be pleading insanity in criminal cases these days—and they are all getting off?"

"Professor, is it so that if you go to a therapist and tell him what's on your mind, he's gotta go to the cops if you say anything scary?"

The author notes that he never gets such questions in the other law classes he teaches. For example in civil procedure, he has never started to discuss subject matter and in personam jurisdiction on the first day of

Continued on p. 7

class only to receive a comment from a student such as: "Professor, I really think the 'stream of commerce' rule in the *Asahi* case is silly." Nor have professors who teach contract law ever reported that a student has, on the first day of class, asked: "Gee, Professor, what do you think about the Uniform Commercial Code?"

These examples are used by the author to illustrate that there is an irrational prejudice associated with mental disability law, which affects the litigation, fact finding and appellate process. The author posits that this stigma negatively affects all participants in the mental disability law process, including witnesses, judges, litigants, attorneys, the media and the public.

The author reviews the history and development of mental disability law, focusing not only on the case law, but also on how society stigmatizes mental disability law and how this stigma drives the law. Sanism and pretextuality are discussed. Important areas of mental disability law are considered, including civil commitment, the right to treatment, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the insanity defense.

This book is an excellent resource for law students and lawyers who are concerned that those with mental disabilities be treated fairly. It will forever change the

reader's perception of the law and legal developments in this area.

Reviewed by Emilie Benoit,
Reference Librarian



Gordon, Karen Elizabeth. *The Deluxe Transitive Vampire: The Ultimate Handbook of Grammar for the Innocent, the Eager, and the Doomed*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1993.
Reference PE 1112 .G578 1993.

Need help with a grammar question? Afraid of dying of boredom seeking the answer? Try this grammar book.

Using an unorthodox approach, the author attempts to make English grammar understandable and fun by creating an "opulent, rapturous, vamped-up grammar drama." The rules of English grammar are illustrated in such an unusual manner as to be memorable in an odd, even interesting, sort of way.

Reviewed by Emilie Benoit,
Reference Librarian



Information View Your Patron Record



Have you ever wanted to know what you have checked-out?

When it was due?

If you have any fines?

You can obtain the answers to these questions from the WebCatalog.

Using the shortcuts on the lab computers or using the address <http://lawlib.rwu.edu>, login to the WebCatalog. On the opening screen is an option: View Your Patron Record. Select this option. Type in your name and the barcode number from your Law School ID, and click on "Display record for person named above." The display provides you with information on checked-out items, fines, holds, etc.

